

Peer Specialist Certification & Endorsements

| The Idaho Peer Specialist Certification procedure is changing-. Once trained, an additional certification process is being added, as well as three endorsement certificates: Criminal Justice, Co-Occurring, and Behavioral Health Crisis Center. Detailed information about the updated certification process and the endorsement areas will be added to this website as they are completed.

A Peer Specialist Certification documents that an individual has met the Idaho requirements (as identified in standards) to deliver peer support services. Certified Peer Specialists (CPS) complete an intensive training to learn how to provide peer-to-peer support to others and to draw on their own experiences to promote wellness and recovery. This service augments and enhances the treatment experience for others living with mental illness. Certification ensures that individuals holding the credential have the experience and knowledge needed to effectively deliver peer support services.

Peer Specialist Support Services are provided by certified individuals who meet the requirements established in the [Certified Peer Specialist Standards](#) .

The minimum qualifications to become certified in Idaho include:

- Lived experience as an adult who has a mental health diagnosis or co-occurring diagnosis;
- At least (1) ongoing and continuous year of recovery
- Completion of Peer Specialist Training that meets the Idaho Standards;
- Work experience and supervised hours

Peer Specialist certification is good for one year. Certified Peer Specialists (CPS) renew their certification and complete ten continuing education hours per year. They are required to submit a renewal application and documentation of the completion of continuing education units. Additional verification may be requested.

Like other professional certifications, the CPS process includes procedures for reciprocity, termination, inactive status, reactivation, reporting changes, grievances (complaints and appeals) and ethics. In addition, the new process includes agency/organization readiness to prepare agencies for the Certified Peer Specialists.

We heard you and we are excited about these changes. We encourage you to check this website periodically for updates. We also encourage you to sign up for the Division of Behavioral Health's quarterly newsletter on our website.